

[President.]

CONSERVATION OF MONSOON RAIN WATER.

A scheme for the control and conservation of monsoon rain water by constructing suitable reservoir dams along the sources of rivers so as to regulate the flow of water and to prevent the silting of rivers in times of flood and the inrush of brine at other times is also under investigation and will be taken up early.

THOTTAPALLY SPILLWAY AND BRIDGE.

The existing facilities for the drainage of flood water in Kuttanad are poor and unsatisfactory. During monsoons the lower regions in Kuttanad remain submerged under more than five feet of water. It is proposed to construct a spillway at Thottapally with banks on either side of the channel with twenty feet top width. The channel itself will be 1200 feet wide and where it cuts the Quilon-Alleppey road it is proposed to put up an Ascu treated timber bridge. The investigation and survey are in progress and the construction of the bridge and the spillway will be taken up after the fixing of alignment of the road and the acquisition of the land. The approximate cost of the whole work will be Rs. 3,50,000.

I now turn to a topic which has aroused some controversy; and that is, our policy with regard to Jaffna tobacco and the imposition of slightly enhanced duty on it. I am now turning from direct to indirect taxation. Jaffna tobacco is now taxed at Rs 135 for a candy of 660 lbs. whereas in British India, a candy is taxed at Rs 1,650. This arrangement was brought about because the people of Travancore have cultivated and maintained an abiding taste for the particular method of curing adopted in what is called 'Jaffna tobacco'. That was the reason why, many many years ago, a certain special power or privilege was vested in the Government of Travancore for the levy of differential and favourable rates of duty on Jaffna tobacco with a view to stimulate its import into the State. To the extent to which that was done, we have crippled our own tobacco production notwithstanding the fact that there are large tracts within the State itself capable of raising tobacco, good tobacco; and it is not beyond the wit of man to devise a method by which the particular kind of curing is adopted by ourselves which gives Jaffna tobacco that flavour which commends itself to the palates or mouths of the people of Travancore. Surely, it was not beyond our capacity to devise some method of producing here a suitable substitute for Jaffna tobacco. But we have not done that. All the same, having regard to our revenue demands, purely for revenue purposes, we have now raised the duty on Jaffna tobacco from Rs 135 per candy to Rs 200. We have not yet concerned ourselves with the question of retaliatory measures against the repatriation or tariff policy of Ceylon. It is not my object now—nor will it be appropriate—to speak fully on that topic at this juncture. But, let it be remembered by Ceylon that one of our very flourishing trades was practically, annihilated by the heavy import duty imposed a few years ago by the Ceylon Government of Travancore eggs. Let it be remembered that Travancore, like the neighbouring State and the neighbouring districts of British India, is suffering on

account of the dumping into British India of Ceylon cocoanut and cocoanut products. Our natural markets are being interfered with, so that it would not be inequitable or sinful, on the part of the Travancore Government, if they exercise their power in this matter to secure their legitimate rights and claims. But we have not so far done so in the interest of amity and of possible fruitfulness in the negotiations on foot. I leave it at that.

Turning now to expenditure, it will be seen that over Rs 50 lakhs are spent on education and Rs 33 lakhs on roads, bridges, protective irrigation and other P. W. D. works; and, under the heading Medical, Public Health and Sanitation we spend about Rs 15 lakhs. As against these, only less than 4 per cent. of the total revenues of the State go to the Privy Purse of His Highness the Maharaja.

Turning next to the schemes now in execution, I desire first to deal with the most important among them. You have heard from the Financial Secretary that the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme is expected to supply power from the middle of December. I have gone there; and may confidently assure the House that there would be no further delay, so much so, that in the expectation that power would be available in December, we are now entering into contracts for the supply of power in bulk to various individuals and organisations. It will also be noticed that the Trivandrum Electric Supply has built up adequate reserve and is thriving very well. Once cheap power becomes available, there will be ample scope for industrial and agricultural progress on intensive lines. I desire to reiterate what I said when I began my remarks, namely, unless intensive agriculture and wide-spread industries are resorted to, the future of this State would be dismal. In relation to this subject those who have the future of the State at heart are dissatisfied with the present methods of the Agricultural Department here, as are the people of the other parts of India with regard to the Agricultural Departments there. What happens is this. The Agricultural Department opens demonstration farms. These farms are almost always objects of ridicule among the neighbouring peasants because of the poor out-turn after much inevitable overhead and departmental expenditure. These farms must be run for research work, for the production of new strains, for introducing economical methods, for familiarising people with new varieties of food stuffs or fruit and new veterinary practice and breeding of new types. They assert that if the Department would give them the money they spend on their farm they could produce much better results than the Department. Unless the Department is able to discover a new variety of food crop or commercial crop, or eradicate some pest or do some really creative work, there would be no use in maintaining any of these demonstration farms which are a real handicap to Government. These farms may also be conceivably useful if they attract young and educated persons and enable them to study new and intensive methods of horticulture, agriculture or veterinary practice or cattle-breeding. While saying this I am not oblivious to the fact that this state of affairs is nothing peculiar to Travancore; this is what is taking place in

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Madras; the same thing occurs elsewhere too. Everywhere you have Directors, Assistant Directors and other officers in the Department; a number of demonstration farms are started without any of them attracting the attention of the common people of the country; we have our fruit farm at Cape Comorin, and other futile institutions. There is no arrangement for proper propaganda or marketing. The whole organisation is run on essentially unbusinesslike lines. This is the position with regard to the Agricultural Departments of all Governments in India.

To summarise, this Department should confine itself to research work in the matter of discovery and production of new varieties, elimination of plant diseases, eradication of pests, and also the starting, if possible, of farms like that of Rothamstead which will show to the people of the country that the Government can produce better and more products at a cheaper cost than the common peasant of the country. If the Travancore Agricultural Department can do that, let it live; if not, let it not live.

Similar and even more drastic remarks are called for in regard to the Co-operative Department. Now, the Co-operative Department has become an agency of petty and short-sighted usurers. It has become a money-lending organisation too often benefiting a coterie. Many of our societies do not practise co-operative principles. No doubt, it was one of the objects of the progenitors of the movement to afford cheap credit also.

But that was only a subsidiary idea. The Co-operative Department was designed for the purpose of bringing people together, to pool their agricultural and industrial resources to arrange for marketing their products, distributing manure, doing propaganda work and proper marketing, and the affording of cheap credit was only one of the means to an end which was that of co-ordinating the united efforts of an otherwise scattered community of peasant proprietors and small industrialists. The result of that is that, today, 60 to 65 per cent. of our co-operative societies have no right to exist. It would be the duty of the Government to take all necessary steps to bring about the extinction, in as painless a manner as possible, of these so-called co-operative societies which have become a menace to society and to the co-operative ideal, and then the other really useful co-operative societies will be so re-organised that they may do real co-operative work. That is what the Government have in their view.

I have spoken of the difficulties of meeting competition with Ceylon in regard to cocoanut. Supposing, for instance, we can combine ourselves into co-operative societies for the purpose of advertisement and grading and finding markets for cocoanut products, treatment of cocoanut pests, etc., the problem can be largely solved. What do they do in Denmark? Today, England has ceased to be an agricultural country; and Denmark has taken advantage of it. They have organised co-operative societies for production and for marketing. Every

morning, co-operatively produced milk and cheese and butter transported by steamers run by co-operative organisations are supplied by Denmark to the English people, at a cheaper rate than that offered by the English farmer to his own countrymen. It must be our objective hereafter to attract our unemployed young men to agriculture and industry. In that, Government will help them. If it is made increasingly clear to every young man and young woman in the country that Government, for their normal work, do not want B. A's., B. L's. or M. A's., and that the money spent on higher education could better be utilised for the improvement of his farms and factories, it is possible that our young men may turn towards agriculture. The glamour of clerical and ministerial service must be strenuously extinguished.

Now, the remarks which I made with regard to the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments were not made with a view to offer a reproach. The Agricultural and Co-operative Departments in Travancore are as good as the Departments elsewhere. The whole outlook has to be changed. What is wanted is intensive agriculture which alone can enable us to grow our own food. Unless we achieve this, we shall be nowhere. The Agricultural Department will bear that in mind and work with that end in view.

Now I come to another question which has a vital bearing on the prosperity of the country and that is the question of administration of justice. It is not necessary for me to point out that elimination of delay in the administration of justice is fundamental to commercial and industrial prosperity. It would indeed be difficult if a person who has got commercial transactions has to wait 4, 5, 6 or 7 years for realisation of his dues. If he has also to encounter various vexatious judicial obstacles such as indefinite adjournments and stay of proceedings and so forth, then it would be all the more difficult for him. We cannot have what may be called real progress unless we eliminate law's delays.

At the same time let me deal with the extravagant suggestion put forward by certain persons who ought to have known better. It has been said that Indian States should have resort to the High Court of some neighbouring province by way of appeal against the judgments of their own High Courts. I have practised in many of the Courts in India and also in England and I have studied judicial systems in Europe; and I may assure honourable members in this House and the public beyond our confines, in the matter of judicial accumen, impartiality and what may be called judicial and legal equipment, the Travancore High Court and the subordinate judiciary and bar here are not behind their compeers in the High Court in Madras or in any other British Indian Province. It is a preposterous idea to ask the Hyderabad, the Mysore, or the Travancore Courts to make themselves subordinate to any of the British Indian High Courts. From a comparison with the most of the other High Courts in India we shall not suffer in any respect. The idea is fantastic and the best treatment will be to ignore it.

Having said that, I come back to the question of laws' delays. It is hoped that lawyers and judges will co-operate in order to make it possible for Travancore to be as good in the matter of speediness in the transaction of legal business and in the quick formulation of legal judgments, as any other State or Province. Unless that is done, we shall not improve our trade or commerce. People are shy of investing money in Travancore. People are shy of conducting business here. Why? Largely because of laws' delays. I do not say that elsewhere matters are perfect. Figures are before me which would show that the position is worse in some other places. But that is no consolation. It is hoped that Travancore will set its house in order in this respect. I am confident that the legal and judicial elements in the country will co-operate to that end.

The next point that I want to dwell upon is the question of our forest resources. I would have had nothing to say on the subject but for the fact that there is a series of questions with regard to the possibilities of the experiment conducted by Mr. Kamesam.

Now, honourable members will be glad to hear—because as very often happens, no man is properly appreciated in India unless he gets a certificate from somewhere outside—Mr. Kamesam was fortunate to get recently a lakh of rupees for his ascu patent right sold to a certain American scientific syndicate. I congratulate him for this recognition. It is not merely for theoretical experimentation that Government have engaged his services: he has got certain realistic ideas which the Government thought they could take advantage of. A scientist should be an idealist and a realist as well. To the extent to which he is an idealist Government will clip his wings and to the extent to which he is a realist Government will take advantage of the results of his realistic experimentations.

With regard to the minerals, the position is this: Some years ago, the Travancore Government handed over to one company 100 miles of our seaside up to a particular width, for the purpose of exploiting the mineral resources found in the sands. Subsequently similar licences were given to other companies also. These companies made large profits, but the royalty they paid to Government was very meagre. So, Government resolved that nobody could get licences for exploiting our mineral resources unless Government were paid a certain percentage of the net profit out of the venture. While we are glad to encourage the exploitation of the mineral resources of our country, we should be very careful that the State's financial interests are duly safeguarded. Government are fully aware of the fact that any competitive commercial enterprise departmentally run is not likely to succeed: but where there is a monopoly, there is no harm in Government undertaking its exploitation. This is preferable to handing over the monopoly to private persons without adequate protection to governmental interest. In the matter of china clay it is a monopoly and we mean to keep the property to ourselves and utilise it to the utmost benefit of the State.

Moreover, we are primarily interested in selling the china clay in lump, than in the manufacture of artistic wares out of it. But by the manufacture of pipes and other articles for Government needs even without manufacturing artware we hope to make considerable profit. The sale of artware is a difficult proposition by reason of world competition.

Next we come to the question of Transport. The Financial Secretary has made it abundantly clear in his statement that the scheme has great possibilities. It was first intended to start the scheme on a particular route and see the result at the end of two years; that period expires in March next year. The House will, I trust, express itself as to whether we should extend the scheme or not. The minimum profit that we should get is 15 to 20 per cent, on the capital outlay. Now, the very first month of opening the Munnar-Cochin Transportation has demonstrated what a profitable concern it is. I shall explain the outlines of the scheme. Till now, all the tea produced in the High Ranges—they produce a considerable proportion of the total quantity of tea grown in India—went from Travancore to Bodinayakanur and *via* Bodinayakanur to Tuticorin. Therefore, the State was losing all the profits derivable from the exportation of tea from the High Ranges, as also the profit that could be made by the transportation, back to the estates, of all provisions required for the estate coolies. Now, with the development of the Cochin Harbour, after negotiations, we got the agency for transportation to and from Cochin and Munnar *via* Alwaye. This means that we are to transport perhaps 40 to 50 thousand tons of exportable material for the mutual benefit of Cochin Port and Travancore. In this connection I may say, in view of certain observations let fall elsewhere that we do not admit that by doing all this we shall forget Alleppey and its claims. We propose to maintain and develop our own ports, while helping substantially the Cochin Harbour scheme in which we are partners.

The advantage of private management of industrial concerns has been proved by the transfer of the Government Sugar Factory which was a practically defunct and insolvent Travancore company. It has been stated that the Government have encouraged an essentially foreign concern in this respect. Whose fault was that? The shares of the company were open for Travancoreans. But how many shares were taken by Travancoreans? In any case, the company has paid to our Government, last year, an amount of Rs 57,500 by way of income-tax surper-tax and our share of the net profits. And the company is extending its operation to a large range of pharmaceutical products.

Now a word about the Rubber Factory. When this factory was run by Government it met with the usual fate. Then it was transferred to the management of a lessee. The products of the factory were good. They made various beautiful artistic things, but they ignored the necessity of propaganda and marketing arrangements. They committed the same error as Governments are apt to commit, *i. e.*, sit down and write notes and expect profits to drop into their bags.

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The present idea is this ; there is the Transport Department which can utilise at least one product of the Rubber Factory, namely, the inner tubes. And then, the factory can produce good bicycle tyres and tubes ; there are innumerable young men—and perhaps young women also hereafter—who use bicycles for their work or as a pastime. It is thus hoped that there will be an assured market for bicycle tyres and tubes. If the factory will supply all the inner tubes required for the Government Transport Department and for the other transport systems in the State, as also bicycle tyres and tubes, I think it can be run on a profit, provided the Government brings into existence an efficient marketing organisation. I may assure the House that unless the Government are able to bring into existence a proper marketing agency, Government will not think of working the factory again. There is no use making a thing on a commercial scale, unless you know how to sell it.

In order to achieve the results that we anticipate from all these enterprises what is wanted is enthusiasm and a re-oriented system of education ; or in other words the practicalisation of education. It is there that we have our University to help us. The extent to which the University will cease to be a manufactory of second-rate by-products, and the extent to which it is able to send out intelligent, trained young men whose aspirations and bent of mind will be towards nation building activities, will be the measure of our having achieved our objects in starting our own University. Almost every day, we get questions relating to public service ; that has become what may be called the main pre-occupation of the journals of the State as it is one of the main items on which legislatures concentrate. It is the hope of Government that sooner or later public service will be regarded as a secondary and ancillary feature of national life and national activity. It is in order to make the public service, clerical posts and ministerial appointments, not the main ambition of the people of the country, that we are trying at reorganisation of our education,—physical, intellectual and psychological.

Now, fellow-members, the future programme of the State does not contemplate any fresh taxation ; it relies for revenue upon natural expansion, and upon the utilisation of the natural resources of the State, including the forests and fields and minerals and their exploitation, the possibility of the export of fish, fish oil, cocoanut, cocoanut products, glycerine manufactured out of cocoanut oil, and the manufacture of sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid in the State as ancillary to large-scale industry. In order to bring about success in this venture, team spirit is essential, and it should not be allowed to flag. In this connection it is worthwhile referring to a pronouncement recently made, which unless I mention the name of the author, may not be believed to have emanated from that source.

“ While I am in favour of encouraging cottage industries, I lay emphasis on the industrialisation of the country on a wide

scale, which alone can produce the requisite amount of material for the people if they are to have higher standards of life."

The author of this statement is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Please note 'higher standards of life'—not the lowering of the standard of living by having recourse to misdirected ideals. He insists on industrialisation, not as contradistinguished from or opposed to cottage industries, but side by side with it. I shall not dilate upon this. Unfortunately we have suffered a great deal from the conflict between two ideals. Fortunately those ideals are now being harmonised.

There is a final thought which may be kept in mind. The people of Travancore have a right to be proud of themselves. They have got a duty to preserve the prestige, the honour, the dignity, the glory of Travancore. Our material progress depends on our psychological qualities, equipment and strivings as much as on our physical attributes and our accessories. Therefore, it must always be remembered by the men and women of Travancore that, to the extent to which they are proud of Travancore, to the extent to which they are anxious and prepared to make Travancore the foremost State in India and one of the foremost units of the British Empire, to that extent alone will they justify themselves. With that hope; with the feeling that Travancore will surely rise to the full height of her own stature, I wish you God-speed in your labours. (*Cheers.*)

The joint sitting terminated at 1-10 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,

Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.